



# MUSC\*2550 Choral Ensembles I

Fall 2021

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 1.00 - June 28, 2021

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

The study and performance of selected choral literature through participation in one of the School's ensembles; the University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, the Gryphon Singers. In order to register for an ensemble, the student must arrange for an audition with the School of Fine Art and Music. Auditions will be held prior to the first day of classes each Fall and Winter semester. Students must check with the School of Fine Art and Music office for audition dates. Students are encouraged to audition for an ensemble in the Fall semester and to participate in it for both Fall and Winter semesters. Not all ensembles will be able to accept new members in Winter. Consult the School of Fine Art and Music for further information.

**Equates:**

MUSC\*2520

**Restrictions:**

Instructor consent required. Successful completion of an audition.

### 1.2 Course Description

Course credit may be earned through participation in one of several University of Guelph Choirs during Fall and Winter semesters. Through study and performance of selected choral music, students develop an understanding of artistic creation through direct involvement in it. Through improvisation and creative activities, students acquire an enriched appreciation of the relational aspects of music and music-making. Rehearsals and performances build upon the students' accumulated knowledge of musical techniques and skills, while study of a given repertoire develops awareness of historical and stylistic trends in music and of the values associated with music-making throughout the world. **For Fall 2021, an outdoor and distanced public event has been planned; if such an event is deemed inappropriate, then "performances" will consist of Virtual Choir projects, improvising, and recorded performances. Vocal development enhances confidence and enables more meaningful self-expression. Synchronous rehearsals, leadership assignments, and small-group discussions are designed to build community and model performance skills, especially when public**

**performance is not possible. Creative projects engage students in imaginative applications of their skills, and in building connections between disciplines. Self-reflection facilitates personal transformation and communal growth.**

### 1.3 Timetable

Gryphon Singers      Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 live + 1 hour in small groups (potentially online)

Symphonic Choir      Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9:30 pm live + 30 minutes asynchronous preparation

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

### 1.4 Final Exam

Students individually submit their Final Singing Test. As for the Midterm Singing Test and all other Performance Testing, the Final exam will consist of excerpts of repertoire learned during these rehearsals. For their Final Exam, students may choose one of the following:

- a. Perform live for the professor ... OR
- b. Record their performance and submit to the professor ... OR
- c. Perform for the professor using an online platform such as Skype or FaceTime

Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

<b>Instructor:</b>	Marta McCarthy
<b>Email:</b>	mmccarth@uoguelph.ca
<b>Telephone:</b>	+1-519-824-4120 x54377
<b>Office:</b>	JHNH 124
<b>Office Hours:</b>	by appointment

## 3 Learning Resources

Repertoire for the Choir is chosen by the conductor - with consideration for the ability of the ensemble, overall balance, and variety – and given to each chorister in person, sent by email

(legal scans) to print/read from tablets, or by mail, if necessary. Students are required to purchase the music, which acts as the course “text”; however, the cost does not exceed \$25. per semester.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Contribute* to global understanding through the rehearsal and performance of musics from many traditions.
  2. *Integrate* Knowledge, Skills and Values developed in other courses.
  3. *Express* specific musical ideas and vocal techniques kinaesthetically.
  4. *Make connections* between historical development of styles and specific repertoire.
  5. *Perceive meaning* embedded in aesthetic artefacts (scores and recordings) of music.
  6. *Communicate* music more accurately and expressively through increased vocal abilities.
  7. *Interpret* musical scores more authentically through advanced musical literacy.
  8. *Apply* in a professional scenario cutting-edge **Experiential Learning skills** now expected of professional musicians, including self-recording, singing/playing to a click-track, balancing and blending virtually, disseminating performance materials, self-reflection, self-promotion, management of synchronous platforms and asynchronous rehearsing.
  9. *Adapt* technical vocal skills (agility and flexibility) to a range of both solo and ensemble repertoire.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

A choir is a small community consisting of and benefitting from the many unique gifts and attributes of each chorister, applied to a group activity, such as rehearsal, discussion, and performance. Significant individual preparation prior to these activities allows singers to

concentrate on working together as a team, toward common goals for the ultimate benefit of everyone involved.

## 5.1 Lecture

### Weekly

#### Topics:

Option ONE and Option TWO: The professor sends to students brief (20 minutes) video-recorded lecture-demonstrations to guide repertoire learning, develop vocal skills, and/or expand musical awareness. In most cases, these should be reviewed by students BEFORE the rehearsal, and students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the material via a brief review (more extensive for Option TWO) before or during (Option ONE only) the Rehearsal; the Instructor will specify exact timing and requirements in advance of each week's Lecture.

## 5.2 Seminar

### Weekly, during rehearsal times listed for each ensemble

#### Topics:

For the weekly "seminar" [= Rehearsal] requirement, students may choose either of these two options:

Option ONE: The ensemble holds weekly synchronous rehearsals of 2 hours LIVE, during which we rehearse the musical and vocal challenges encountered in the repertoire. These rehearsals are recorded for the sake of those who miss an occasional rehearsal or for those who choose Option TWO (below).

Option TWO: Singers who prefer, for reasons of distance or health, may choose to review the rehearsal recording and participate solely in Virtual Choir options. Please note the specific requirements of this Option in the Assignments and Evaluation of the course. Please also note that, while it is possible to switch from Option One to Option Two at any point in the semester, it is **not** possible to switch from Option Two to Option One until the beginning of a new semester.

## 5.3 Lab

### Weekly at mutually agreeable time

**Topics:** GRYPHON SINGERS ONLY: With only 1.5 hours of Monday rehearsal, Gryphon Singers meet for 1 hour at another time convenient for all members of the entire choir, OR of a small group within the choir, to rehearse repertoire appropriate to their group's size, interests, and expertise. If necessary, this group may meet online, using a platform such as JackTripp.

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## 6 Assessments

### 6.1 Assessment Details

#### Participation (25%)

**Date:** Weekly, Synchronous rehearsal (seminar)

**OPTION ONE:** Group responsibility, punctuality, rehearsal skills (score-marking, attention to leader, balance, blend and continuity of vocal tone), preparedness for dress rehearsals, concerts, recordings. Evaluated at every rehearsal and concert.

**OPTION TWO:** Evidence of attentive, meticulous review of every Rehearsal recording, as demonstrated by responses to weekly Q&A assignments.

#### Proficiency (25%)

**Date:** , Recordings submitted to Course Link Dropbox

Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by submitting recordings of assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Feedback from these submissions helps the student to prepare for future submissions/performance, and for the Final Singing Test.

**OPTION ONE:** 3 recorded submissions (approximately 8% each, due week 3, 5, 9),

demonstrating the vocal and musical skills emphasized in the Lecture-guide recordings (“lecture”) and the Rehearsal video-recordings (“seminar”) provided by the conductor, including accurate pitch and rhythm, tuning, tone, articulation, phrasing, blending, and nuance.

**OPTION TWO:** 6 recorded submissions (approximately 4% each, due week 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10), demonstrating the vocal and musical skills emphasized in the Lecture-guide recordings (“lecture”) and the Rehearsal video-recordings (“seminar”) provided by the conductor, including accurate pitch and rhythm, tuning, tone, articulation, phrasing, blending, and nuance.

### **Creative Project (10%)**

**Date:** Fri, Nov 5, Submitted to Course Link Dropbox

Students choose, in consultation with the instructor, one of a variety of ways to actualize their imaginative ideas about the choir, the music, the voice, or associated aspects. The format of the submission is very flexible; students who prefer a larger project may combine this Creative Project with the Leadership/Research project. Interdisciplinary connections are encouraged: one goal of this project is to give students an experience that is transferable to other situations (beyond ensembles).

### **Leadership or Research (Student Choice) (10%)**

**Date:** Fri, Dec 3, Submitted to Course Link Dropbox

Students choose from a variety of practical projects that contribute to the administration, management, or social organization of a choral ensemble; OR students submit a written or recorded summary of their analysis of one of the pieces in our current repertoire.

Leadership may include acting as section leader, serving on the choir committee, helping with administrative tasks, providing publicity and promotion, helping with physical set-up, or by leading a warm-up in consultation with the Conductor.

### **Midterm Singing test (10%)**

**Date:** Mon, Oct 4 - Fri, Oct 15, Performed Live OR Recording submitted to Course Link (Student Choice)

Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by submitting recordings – or performing live, according to student’s preference - assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed. Feedback from this test helps the student to prepare for future submissions/performance, and for the Final Singing Test.

### **Final Singing test (20%)**

**Date:** Mon, Dec 6 - Wed, Dec 15, Performed Live OR Recording submitted via Course Link (Student choice)

Students demonstrate individual security of part, with attention to all musical and vocal details, by submitting recordings – or performing live, according to student’s preference - assigned excerpts of the repertoire that has been rehearsed.

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## 7 Course Statements

### 7.1 MATERIAL TO BE COVERED AND METHOD OF PRESENTATION

#### (Delivery):

- i. The weekly ensemble REHEARSALS (Monday nights for Gryphon Singers, and Tuesday evenings for Symphonic Choir) are central to the ensemble's growth as a musical community and to the individual singer's engaged contribution to this community. Therefore, **it is IMPERATIVE that each singer (student) attend all Rehearsals; those requiring Option TWO, must instead commit to a meticulous, concentrated, and thoughtful review of each Rehearsal.**
- ii. Students (and all members of the ensemble) will receive weekly pre-recorded rehearsal-guides. Using this resource, each singer prepares for the upcoming Rehearsal.
- iii. Singers submit audio-recorded excerpts of the repertoire. Those choosing Option TWO submit twice as many excerpts in order to demonstrate their learning of the material in lieu of live singing.
- iv. The professor responds regularly via email with feedback, which is used to improve the next submission.
- v. Students submit **Midterm and Final Exams**, - some using recorded accompaniments and a click-track provided by conductor - and applying professor’s feedback from weekly recordings. These recordings are also used to compile a **Virtual Choir recording (instead of or in addition to live performance).**

## **7.2 Principles governing the delivery of this course and adaptations, Fall 2021**

Principles guiding the delivery of this course, as adapted to the pandemic situation in Fall 2021:

\*Process, rather than Performance, is now the emphasis. This is a rare opportunity, with less emphasis on live performance, to focus on enhanced processes (creative and iterative), intensive skill development, novel approaches, and potential research possibilities.

\*At the same time, Virtual ensemble “performance” products will enhance aural understanding, provide consummation, and act as promotional material.

## **8 University Statements**

### **8.1 Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### **8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions



<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### **8.3 Drop Date**

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### **8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **8.5 Accessibility**

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## 8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## 8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## **8.10 Illness**

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.

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